GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1636
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2015
Security Audit of Telecom Equipments
Solanki Dr. Kirit Premjibhai

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked the Telecom Service Providers (TSP) including Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to conduct regular security audit of the equipment procured from foreign companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the TSPs are following the instructions;

(d) if so, the details thereof, TSP-wise; and

(e) if not, the action taken by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b) Madam, yes, to address the security concerns related to telecom and telecom Network, Government has issued the comprehensive security guidelines in form of amendment to various telecom licenses (i.e. Access Services, National Long Distance and International Long distance Services licenses on 31.05.2011 and Internet Service Providers & VSAT service providers on 03.06.2011) in consultation with Ministry of Home affairs and Telecom Industry. Subsequently, these security guidelines have been included as an integral part of Unified License (UL).These license conditions have inter-alia mandated Telecom Service Providers (TSP) to induct only those network elements into their telecom networks, which have been got tested as per relevant contemporary Indian or International Security Standards e.g. IT and IT related elements against ISO/IEC 15408 standards, for Information Security Management System against ISO 27000 series Standards, Telecom and Telecom related elements against 3GPP security standards, 3GPP2 security standards etc from any international agency/ labs of the standards e.g. Common Criteria Labs in case of ISO/IEC 15408 standards until 31st March 2016. From 1st April 2016 the certification shall be got done only from authorized and certified agencies/labs in India.

(c) & (d) All TSPs are following these instructions and have set up the process for auditing of equipments procured including procured from foreign companies to be inducted in their network. DoT is in process of setting up the Telecom Testing and Security Certification (TTSC) Centre so that local/in-country testing can be conducted.
(e) Does not arise in view of above.